

REMARKS

Before this amendment, claims 1-49 were pending in this application. Claims 1-13, 16 18-30, 33-46 and 49 all were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of US Patent 6,609,131 to Zait when combined with US Patent 6,263,331 to Liu. The Office has indicated that claims 14-15, 31-32 and 47-48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 17 has been allowed.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-2, 16, 18-19, 33-35 and 49, leaving claims 3-15, 17, 20-32 and 36-48 pending in the application. Applicant asks the Office to reconsider the application and allow all of the remaining claims.

Independent claims 3, 20 and 36

Zait does now show, nor does he even suggest, “calculating . . . a first number f_1 and a second number f_2 . . . of partitions . . . to be joined” in two tables t_1 and t_2 , “determining . . . a first starting position number P_1 . . . and a second starting position number P_2 ” for the two tables, and then “joining a set of f_2 partitions of table t_2 starting at P_2 with a set of f_1 partitions of table t_1 starting at P_1 ,” as claimed. While it is true that Zait does discuss joining certain partitions from one table with certain partitions from another table, Zait says nothing about calculating the number of partitions to be joined in each table and then joining that many partitions beginning at some predetermined starting point. Neither the calculated numbers of partitions (f_1 and f_2) nor the predetermined starting points (P_1 and P_2) of Applicant’s claims appear in Zait.

Liu also does not show or suggest calculating a number of partitions to join or finding predetermined starting points and therefore does not overcome the deficiencies of Zait. Accordingly, claims 3, 20 and 26, as well as all of the claims that depend from them, are patentable over these references.

Independent Claims 13, 30 and 46

Applicant finds absolutely no teaching in Zait to suggest creating “a derived constraint rule (DCR)” of the form “ $(PK = FK) \rightarrow cv_2 + c_1 \leq cv_1 \leq cv_2 + c_2$ ” and using this rule to modify a “running constraint” on a join process between two tables. While Zait does discuss the joining of tables partitioned into date-based ranges, Zait says nothing about the creation of a derived

constraint rule like that claimed and its use in modifying a running constraint that is applied to the tables during the join. Like Zait, Liu is also silent about the creation and use of such a rule, and claims 13, 30 and 46 are therefore allowable over these references. All claims depending from claims 13, 30 and 46 are allowable as well.

Claim 17

Applicant thanks the Office for indicating the allowability of claim 17.



CONCLUSIONS

All of the claims remaining in this application are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore asks the Office to withdraw the rejections and allow all of the claims. Please apply any charges that might be due, excepting the issue fee but including fees for extensions of time, to deposit account 14-0225.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Cowart", written over a horizontal line.

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